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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 30 | Min 20 | Humidity 79% Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain Sensex 64,363 | Nifty 19,230 | Gold 61,750 | Silver 74,000 | Dollar 83.28 | Euro 89.18 | GBP 101.62

Bite care

CITY PAGE 3

Support dog bite victims, local bodies told

Raising trees

CITY PAGE 6

Not just plant, tend to them trees

Silt accumulates along Outer Ring Road posing danger to motorists as BBMP's sweeping machines gather dust

SILT ROUTE

Underpass near Kalyan Nagar turns garbage dumping spot

Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The purpose of the Outer Ring Road is to ensure smooth movement of vehicles. The ORR is certainly not meant for accumulating silt making motorists, especially two-wheeler riders, vulnerable to road accidents.

Silt is accumulated at the majority of the flyovers and underpasses on the Outer Ring Road. It poses danger to the unwary motorists. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) spent crores of rupees to purchase mechanical sweeping machines but if the silt accumulated at these flyovers over time is any indication, it seems the BBMP is not utilising the mechanical sweeping machines to ensure the Outer Ring Road is free from the accumulation of silt and dust.

"What is the use of spending crores of rupees to purchase mechanical sweeping machines if dust or silt is accumulated and poses danger to motorists? I am of the opinion that the BBMP is not serious about keeping the Outer Ring Road free from dust and silt. It will be a great help for the motorists if the BBMP takes measures to remove the accumulated silt and dust," said S Rajagopal, a two-wheeler rider.

Stating the accumulated dust and silt pose danger to the two-wheeler riders, Praveen Kumar, a two-wheeler rider, said he has to commute on the Outer Ring Road to reach his workplace at the International Tech Park. "The accumulated silt and dust remain at the flyovers and underpasses for quite a long time. No one is interested in removing the silt and dust," said Kumar.

Many motorists felt that silt would reach the nearest drain when it rains heavily

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »

> **I want authorities concerned to clear accumulated silt for the benefit of two-wheeler riders**
>
> —Ravi Kumar, motorist

A few buses giving station a miss

Women using certain bus routes forced to walk to Kalasipalyam bus station risking their safety at night

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Despite the establishment of the Kalasipalyam bus station, women commuters complained that a few buses still do not go through the station. Female passengers working late at night are forced to walk to the bus station.

Since the opening of the Kalasipalyam bus station in June, female commuters using BMTC services have been upset over a few routes.

They complained that many buses still do not halt inside the station but rather stop at KR Market. This practice is forcing women commuters using certain bus routes to walk to the bus station, risking their safety at night.

" I have to take the bus to reach my workplace at the hospital. Every night, around 8-8:30 pm I have to walk through the unsafe parts of KR Market area to reach Kalasipalyam bus station. From there, I board the bus to my destination in Ullal Nagar. BMTC needs to make some arrangements to ensure safety," said Savitri, a commuter.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6»

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Dance show

Grab the chance to attend IDA 2023, Mahaan, a presentation by the Padmalaya Dance Foundation and the International Dance Alliance. On this occasion, Guru Smt Lalitha Srinivasan will receive the Leela Sekhar Memorial Award. The main performers include Divya Nayar's Dakshina, the Padmalaya Dance Ensemble, and the Nirali Collective. **Where: ADA Rangamandira, JC Road**
When: November 5; 5:30 pm

02 Deco pieces

Don't miss the Bengaluru Utsav Festival, which is a visual treat festival and an exhibition-cum-sale of artefacts and decorative household items. You can explore a variety of items made by native and rural artisans. The festival is an opportunity to take pride in age-old Indian tradition and heritage. **Where: Chitrakala Parishat**
When: until November 5

03 World of art

The National Gallery of Modern Art is presenting the in-house curated exhibition, 'Haripura Panels—Nandalal Bose (1882–1966)'. The exhibition showcases 77 iconic works from BGMA's permanent collection, along with a copy of the manuscript of the Constitution of India. It will be inaugurated by Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot, the Governor of Karnataka.
Where: National Gallery of Modern Art;
When: November 3; 3:30 pm onwards

A digital dilemma

Usage of mobile phones impacts neck posture and disability in young adults attending college, reveals study; experts say forward neck posture can impair function of cervical spine

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The college-going population has seen a rise in smartphone usage, but prolonged use of smartphones is associated with adverse effects on both physical and mental health. A study conducted by health experts at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) has revealed that mobile phone usage has impacts on neck posture and disability in young adults attending college.

The study was carried out by Dr Shubham Menaria, a physiotherapist at NIMHANS, under the guidance of Dr Pradnya Dhargave, chief physiotherapist at NIMHANS, among 50 college students in the age group of 21 to 25 years. The weekly usage of mobile phones in hours was documented by usage tracking apps. The forward neck posture of the individuals was assessed by measuring the cranio-vertebral (CV) angle using the photogrammetry method and the disability using the Neck Disability Index (NDI). Pearson correlation analysis was done to statistically analyse the data.

The study found that 35 out of 50 patients were having neck pain,back pain, spasms, tenderness, and stress, and the students used the phone for about 8–9 hours a day. The study identified a mild disability in neck functions and an increased forward head posture in individuals who had increased weekly usage of mobile phones.

Dr Shubham said, "The increasing prevalence of mobile phone usage among college students is a cause for concern due to its impact on forward neck posture and overall neck function, often colloquially referred to as 'text neck.' This phenomenon has drawn significant attention because of its potential long-term consequences for musculoskeletal health. A forward neck posture can restrict neck movement and impair the function of the cervical spine, potentially making it more challenging for students to turn their heads."

> **"The increasing prevalence of mobile phone usage is a cause for concern due to its impact on forward neck posture**
> – Dr Shubham Menaria, NIMHANS

This, in turn, can lead to difficulties in activities such as driving or participating in sports, as it limits the range of motion in the neck and affects cervical spine functionality, he added.

College students often heavily depend on their smartphones for studying, communication, and entertainment. Nevertheless, this reliance can have detrimental impacts on their mental and physical well-being. According to Dr Shubham, prolonged neck strain can hinder their capacity to concentrate, focus, and excel academically. The constant use of phones can also result in psychological repercussions, such as heightened stress and diminished well-being. Additionally, poor posture can affect self-esteem and body image.

Health professionals have also noted that prolonged instances of poor posture and mobile phone usage can result in long-term effects on spinal health. This may contribute to alterations in spinal structure and potentially give rise to chronic pain conditions.

The study was carried among 50 college students in the age group of 21 and 25 years

Preventive measures

1. Maintain proper ergonomics when using their phones, such as holding the device at eye level.
2. Take regular breaks from phone use to stretch and strengthen the neck and upper back muscles.
3. Practice good posture.
4. Avoid using phones for two hours after you wake up.
5. Seek professional help if one experiences persistent pain or discomfort.

Easy Kannada mastery: Guide to effortless learning

Y Maheswara Reddy
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Are you feeling shy about speaking Kannada? Do not worry. You can speak Kannada without any hesitation or feeling shy, thanks to the Sarjapur Residents Welfare Association (SRWA) for taking the initiative to facilitate non-Kannada-speaking people to speak Kannada without any hassles.

The SRWA has launched a programme, Bindaasagi Kannada Maathaadi, to enable non-Kannada-speaking people to speak Kannada. The SRWA took the decision to launch the programme on the occasion of the 50th year of renaming the state. The objective of the programme is to make non-Kannada-speaking people speak Kannada even though they are not able to speak Kannada properly.

"The SRWA has been organising many Kannada programmes all these years. We have received some suggestions from Kannada Online Tuition to help non-Kannada-speaking people speak Kannada. The online tuition conducts Kannada-speaking classes for children. They found that their parents are hesitating to speak Kannada, fearing that they will pronounce Kannada words wrongly," said SRWA president Jagadeesh K.

People joining the Bindaasagi Kannada Maathaadi programme will have moderators who know to speak Kannada as well as Tamil, Telugu, Hindi, and Malayalam. "The moderators will help the people who join the

Bindaasagi Kannada Maathaadi programme. The moderators will guide the non-Kannada speakers on how to pronounce Kannada words and speak Kannada," explained Jagadeesh.

The Kannada-speaking classes will be held online between 12 pm and 1 pm on Sunday. "We announced the programme a few days ago. Around 30 people have already registered, and we expect more people to join. Classes will commence on November 5," he said. Those who are interested in speaking Kannada fluently can join through the link: https://bit.ly/BindaasKannada_Mathadi.

Many non-Kannada-speaking people have welcomed the Bindaasagi Kannada Maathaadi initiative. They said the moderators will be a great help for non-Kannada-speaking people to speak Kannada properly.

"It is a great initiative. I appreciate the SRWA for organising online classes for non-Kannada-speaking people for one hour every Sunday, and it will not be a problem for non-Kannada-speaking people to spare one hour to learn Kannada," said Shanmugam, a resident of Shivaji Nagar.

A paw-some step indeed

Government directs local bodies to extend animal birth control, aid for dog bite victims

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Local committees must convene within 48 hours to process applications, offering financial aid

The Karnataka State Government has instructed municipalities, taluk panchayats, and city corporations to implement animal birth control (ABC) programs for stray dogs, aligning with the initiatives of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). Additionally, the government has mandated the formation of a four-member committee within these local bodies to assess applications from victims of dog bites, providing financial assistance where needed.

The Urban Development Department Under Secretary issued an order on October 30 to municipalities, taluk panchayats and city corporations to constitute a four-member committee to consider the applications of dog bite victims.

"The committee constituted at taluk, municipality, and city corporation level has to meet within 48 hours of receiving the report from the medical superintendent to consider the applications submitted by the dog bite victims and make arrangements to provide financial assistance of Rs 5,000 for injuries due to dog bites and Rs 5 lakh in case of death due to dog bites," Satish Kabade, Under Secretary of Urban Development Department stated in the order.

The composition of these committees at the taluk, municipality, and city corporation levels includes the Commissioner or Chief Executive Officer as the chairperson. The committee also comprises the Taluk Health Officer, the Assistant Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, and the health officer of the respective municipality, taluk panchayat, or corporation.

> **Generally dogs will not bite people unless they are provoked or disturbed. I welcome the government order on compensation to dog bite victims**
>
> –Arun Prasad, animal activist

The committees' responsibilities encompass verifying the dog bite victim's application, organising medical treatment, securing a non-cognizable report from the local police station, and making provisions for treatment at private hospitals if government facilities are unavailable.

Animal activists have welcomed the government order on compensation for dog bite victims and the ABC programme for stray dogs. "Generally, dogs will not bite people unless they are provoked or disturbed. I welcome the government order on compensation to dog bite victims. I am of the opinion that treatment for dog bite victims is available at the government referral hospitals free of cost," said Arun Prasad, an animal activist.

Stating that the strict implementation of ABC-ARV program with suitable infrastructure and timely unflinching support by local bodies for the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) approved non-governmental organisations (NGOs) across the cities, taluks, districts and the state is absolutely critical for overall measurable success, Sujaya Jagadish, an SPCA member, has said that such work, along with mass awareness for the public, will certainly reduce the number of dog bites and associated injuries.

Stating that the government order is essential to conduct ABC programmes for street dogs, Nevina Kamath, Secretary of Action for Animal Justice, wondered what took the government 22 long years to come out with this Notification. "Why is there no State Monitoring and Implementation Committee for the ABC, with the Secretary of Urban Development Department as its Chairman, formed in Karnataka as per honourable Supreme Court order in the All India Stray Dogs matter? And how is the ABC to be conducted across 30 other districts in the State when we don't have sufficient bonafide animal welfare officers (AWOs) to take up projects under the BBMP in Bangalore Urban District itself? And what has the SMIC or Karnataka Animal Welfare Board done to identify, facilitate, train and encourage teams of Surgeons, Para Vets, Handlers and Catchers to take up ABC across the State? It's like announcing Ration Card registration without having a Public Distribution System," said Nevina Kamath.

She welcomed the compensation for dog bites but emphasised that long-term public awareness and adherence to ABC-ARV and Core Vaccination can reduce the need for compensation by mitigating man-animal conflict.

Foolproof exams: Officials on alert with body cams

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Supervisors will wear body cameras to keep an eye on candidates' movements

To combat corruption, city police officers have been instructed to wear body cameras. Notably, for the first time in the state's history, body-worn cameras have become mandatory for exam invigilators. You might be wondering why invigilators need body cameras. The reason is to closely monitor how candidates are conducting their exams. Officials believe that even with the presence of CCTV cameras in the exam halls, it's insufficient to fully oversee the candidates, hence the requirement for invigilators to wear body cameras.

After facing a series of controversies and malpractices in exam administration, the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) appears to have taken decisive action. They have introduced a range of measures to prevent malpractices in exams for various Group C positions to be conducted by the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) this weekend.

Among the measures, authorities have ensured that candidates cannot bring modern gadgets, including mobile phones, Bluetooth devices, calculators, or wireless sets. Additionally, several traditional malpractice methods remain banned, such as using white fluids, paper books, wearing full shirts, ornaments (except for mangala sutra and finger rings), pullovers, jackets, and sweaters. Candidates are also prohibited from covering their ears or wearing face masks. Mandatory handheld detector checks have been implemented, and there are plans to introduce biometrics and face recognition detectors to verify candidates' identities.

CCTV cameras will be installed at exam centres, and exams will be closely monitored in real-time by officials. For the first time, supervisors will wear body cameras to keep an eye on candidates' movements.

The question remains whether these new measures will ensure foolproof exam administration. In response to this concern, IAS officer KS Latha Kumari, Secretary of KPSC, said, "We will conduct the exams in a foolproof and transparent manner to eliminate any potential for malpractice. We have taken all necessary precautions this time."

KPSC is conducting exams to recruit personnel for 400 positions in Bengaluru and 22 other centres, with more than 78,000 candidates registered for these exams. Officials warn that any engagement in malpractice will result in criminal charges. These new measures come in the wake of 21 arrests in Kalburagi and Yadgir districts for Bluetooth malpractices during the recent first-division assistant exams. Surprisingly, the authorities were shocked by the malpractices in FDA exams, given that no lessons were learned from last year's PSI exam malpractice incident. The CID, which had investigated the PSI exam malpractice, had provided guidelines to exam authorities on how to conduct foolproof exams, but they were not followed this time. The CID's report recommended various measures, including handheld detector surveillance, installation of jammers at sensitive and hypersensitive exam centres.

Muggers strike morning commuters

Once again, morning commuters have fallen victim to muggers. In a recent incident reported on Friday at 4.30 am, a 75-year-old newspaper vendor named Anthony C (pic) fell victim to muggers as he was travelling on his TVS moped near Cantonment railway station. This unfortunate incident highlights a recurring problem where morning joggers, as well as milk and newspaper distributors, have been targeted by criminals in the past. According to the complaint, around 4.50 am, assailants on a two-wheeler confronted Anthony, accusing him of damaging their vehicle. The situation escalated as the accused individuals produced knives and inflicted a stab wound on the victim's right thigh. In the face of danger, the victim's cry for help prompted the criminals to flee into the darkness. Police is actively investigating the case. **–BMB**

State funeral honours for organ donors

The Karnataka government is exploring the possibility of conducting funerals of individuals who donate their organs after death with full state honours, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said on Friday. He also said the government would soon formulate a policy to publicise the importance of organ donation with the aim of encouraging more people to participate in such noble acts.

The minister posted on social media platform X, encouraging people to become organ donors, saying that a single organ donor can save up to eight lives.

"We believe this noble act of gifting lives deserves a greater appreciation, and our government is contemplating a programme that recognises and honours individuals who donate their organs after death," he said.

The government, the minister said, is exploring ideas, including awarding certificates and conducting funerals of organ donors with full state honours.

"We shall soon formulate a policy to publicise the importance of organ donation, which will encourage more people to participate," Rao said. He urged people to join the cause and help others live a more fruitful life **–PTI**

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Rooting for Nelamangala-Hassan Road

Demand for farm land surges as people enjoy these spots as family holiday destinations

People prefer to head to their own farm lands as a means of unwinding

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Nelamangala-Hassan Road is turning out to be favourite destinations for those not only to build factories, but also to buy plots and even farm stays. Surendra Kumar, a realtor, said, "A growing number of individuals are expressing a desire to retreat to their own farm lands as a means of unwinding and rejuvenation. This increased demand has spurred a surge in the demand for farm lands, with people actively seeking to purchase these parcels for the purpose of driving with their families and enjoying leisurely stays amidst the serene countryside. The farm stays for family holidays has become a driving force behind the increased interest in acquiring farm lands, creating a trend where individuals aspire to create familial retreats away from the hustle and bustle of urban life. Embracing organic practices has become the new norm. In Bengaluru, there is a preference for fruits and vegetables cultivated through organic farming."

"Farm stays for family holidays are all the rage, sparking increased interest in acquiring farm lands, creating a trend for individuals aspire to create retreats away from the bustle of urban life –Surendra Kumar, realtor

Developers catering to this emerging demand are not only selling farm lands but also presenting diverse options.

Property developers also assert that investing in farmland can yield profitable returns in the future, considering property investment as the best avenue for long-term returns. This surge in interest in farm lands appears to be the future for property buyers, with more Bengalureans expressing a desire to own their piece of agricultural land and engage in part-time farming for personal sustenance.

Pricey rentals

Meanwhile, Sarjapur Road has become the most expensive area in terms of rentals in the city. According to the latest report, rental rates in this area ranged from Rs 25,000 to Rs 37,000. Following closely are Thanisandra Main Road (Rs 24,000 to Rs 34,000) and Whitefield (Rs 23,000 to Rs 33,000). The Anarock report indicates that Bengaluru recorded the third most significant quarter-on-quarter (Q-o-Q) surge in new residential property launches among India's top 7 cities. Bengaluru commanded a 13% share of the total new residential launches and demonstrated a notable 7% increase in new launch activity over the year, with a substantial 30% increase Q-o-Q during Q3 2023.

East Bengaluru maintained its stronghold as the focal zone in Q3 2023, registering a 22% uptick on a Q-o-Q basis and an impressive 54% share of the total new residential launches. In close pursuit was North Bengaluru, accounting for 26%, marking a commendable 62% Q-o-Q growth, while South Bengaluru witnessed a 21% Q-o-Q growth, comprising a 17% share. West Bengaluru's contribution to new launch activity remained steadfast at 4%, echoing its performance in the preceding quarter. Analyzing the budget breakdown in Q3 2023, a 31% Q-o-Q increase in the supply share of high-end housing units is witnessed. Conversely, all other budget segments experienced a quarterly decline in the number of new launches.

The report further added that Bengaluru ranked third in terms of housing sales among the top 7 Indian cities. In the third quarter of 2023, Bengaluru's residential real estate sector saw a robust uptick in housing absorption, with close to 16,400 residential units sold. This quarter marked a noteworthy 9% increase in residential sales compared to the previous quarter, indicating a resurgence in the market. Impressively, the city exhibited a remarkable 29% surge in housing absorption annually. "When analyzing Bengaluru's housing sales from a zonal perspective, East Bengaluru leads the way, accounting for approximately 47% of the city's residential sales in Q3 2023. This reflects a 16% increase compared to the figures in Q2 2023. In close pursuit, North Bengaluru claims a significant 27% share, while South Bengaluru captures 21% of the total home sales recorded during the same period. Home sales in both zones experienced growth of 4% and 3%, respectively, compared to the previous quarter. Maintaining the smallest market share at 5%, West Bengaluru saw a 5% Q-o-Q rise in housing absorption", said the report.

The report stated that Bengaluru possessed the third lowest available inventory, trailing behind Chennai and Kolkata. As of the end of Q3 2023, Bengaluru's share in Pan India's available inventory accounted for 8%, equating to approximately 49,300 units. Notably, the available inventory in the city experienced a 3% decline on a quarterly basis and a more significant decrease of 16% compared to the corresponding period in the preceding year.

A majority of the city's available housing units, approximately 52%, are notably concentrated in East Bengaluru, indicating a marginal 1% increase on a quarterly basis. In contrast, all other zones experienced a reduction in their respective zonal available inventory levels in Q3 2023 when compared to Q2 2023. In terms of budget segmentation, the city's available inventory is prominently led by the high-end segment, representing 45% of the total; followed by the affordable segments, each contributing 19% of the inventory. By the end of Q3 2023, Bengaluru maintains its position as the city with the lowest inventory overhang.

–Prakash VL

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Kanakapura Road is home-buyers' hotspot

Infra development, lush greenery, connectivity and easy traffic makes area a favourite

Infrastructure development usually raises realty value of areas

Kanakapura Road is emerging as a favoured destination for property buyers due to numerous opportunities arising from big infrastructure projects. The Metro line, connecting Nagasandra to Kanakapura Road, serves as a crucial milestone. Future connectivity to the airport via Metro is anticipated, providing residents with convenient travel options and beating ground traffic.

The ongoing widening of Kanakapura Road and the proposed expansion to a four-lane highway contribute to the area's appeal. The highway's planned development includes a four-lane stretch to Kanakapura and a subsequent two-lane highway with paved shoulders to the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border. This route is also preferred by travelers heading towards Coimbatore and beyond.

"For those seeking to build their dream homes amidst greenery, Kanakapura Road is becoming a prime choice. The combination of NICE Road and Metro connectivity facilitates easy movement within and around Kanakapura Road, connecting it to various parts of the city and outskirts. The NICE Road, connecting Kanakapura Road to Bannerghatta, Hosur, Mysuru, Magadi, and Tumakuru Roads, is especially favored by commuters heading to CBD and other city parts. Kanakapura Road benefits from a proposed bypass at critical locations like Kaggalipura, Udyapura, Harohalli, Kanakapura, and Sathanur. This planning aims to streamline traffic flow and further enhance the overall travel experience for residents. Kanakapura Road stands out as an ideal destination, offering plots catering to various budget ranges. Whether one desires a premium plot with amenities or a budget-friendly option, there are numerous choices. Real estate developers often provide free site visits for potential buyers to experience the surroundings firsthand," Shiva Moorthy, a realtor said.

Vishwas Devaraju, another realtor, said, that the Metro network adds another layer of accessibility, providing swift travel options within the city. "As the Metro expands, it enhances the ability of residents to traverse different parts of the city conveniently. Metro stations with ample parking further facilitate seamless integration of private vehicles into the public transport system. This robust infrastructure accessibility is encouraging individuals to explore property options in the outskirts of the city. Buying property on Kanakapura Road means staying away from congestion, but in terms of access to infrastructure, we are still very close. Overall, Kanakapura Road has become an attractive investment destination, offering a blend of greenery, connectivity, and ongoing infrastructure development, making it a sought-after choice for Bengalureans looking to purchase property."

Property dealers say that Kanakapura Road area continues to witness infrastructure developments and it remains an ideal investment for those seeking a harmonious blend of nature and accessibility.

"Property buying is not just for constructing homes but also acts as a future investment. As Kanakapura Road is also considered as a second alternative road to Mysuru, many of them who are staying in western and southern parts of Karnataka prefer to own land here. It is easier for us to build a home and head to our native places during the weekend so that we need to cross from one end of the city to another. On weekdays, we have Metro trains and NICE Road so that we can easily move from one end of the city to another. The added advantage is that Kanakapura Road is a picture perfect place as one can see a chain of hillocks from distance acting like a perfect backdrop with a lot of greenery around and above all a number of affordable plots available," said Rajesh AM, a techie.

-Prakash VL

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Murder most foul

The world has slipped into a cauldron of chaos, especially post covid, as 'wars' are raised in the facade of geopolitics. Whose interests are we shielding in mass murder?

The aftermath - in the death of vulnerable thousands in humanitarian crises - brings Thomas De Quincy's 1827 essay, 'On Murder Considered as One of the Fine Arts,' to mind.

"Like Aeschylus or Milton in poetry, like Michelangelo in painting, he has carried his art to a point of colossal sublimity;" Quincy writes in a definitive reference to the dark recesses of the mind.

"Something more goes to the composition of a fine murder than two blockheads to kill and be killed, a knife, a purse, and a dark lane. Design, grouping, light and shade, poetry, and sentiment are indispensable to the ideal murder," - De Quincy's essay refers to a lecture at a bizarre society in London of the time: "They profess to be curious in homicide; amateurs and dilettanti in the various modes of bloodshed; and, in short, Murder-Fanciers," the 'The Society of Connoisseurs in Murder'.

Apart from the knife, purse and dark lanes now found in arms manufacturers/mercenaries, state-sponsored conflicts in no-man's lands across the globe, the design, grouping, poetry and sentiment De Quincy points to are kept in context by the pliant press.

From the leopard that was shot dead in Bengaluru as a crowd almost cheered on the spectacle a few days ago, to the thousands of children massacred in Gaza, brute human power is gleeful in murder, to elaborate on De Quincy's point.

He even refers to Kant, Coleridge and Aristotle and their affinity to the spectacle of ill.

In such satire, exposed is the human nature that enjoys killing innocents in their thousands if not millions even today despite all that moral grandstanding — taking into account refugees of wars perished up until now in their arduous journeys toward a better life — as murder of such a massive scale is executed in plain sight.

There are no sides in the battle of power against the stateless; the latter's meek position and composure nullify commentary churned out in opinion piece after piece to glorify the binary.

Fact is, the economy of so-called war shielding leaders whose currency is waning in their home grounds is eating the world from the insides as vulnerable millions flee oftentimes to their deaths.

What if such historical divisions that helped generation after generation of morally corrupt leaders to hold on to power by murder did not exist? What would this diabolical aspect of humanity lean to then?

In the satire that arose from such vagaries, a foremost contextual reference is the 1992 album/and song of the same name, by the enigmatic late singer-songwriter Leonard Cohen, 'The Future'. Cohen sings: "Give me back the Berlin wall / Give me Stalin and St Paul / I've seen the future, brother / It is murder / Things are going to slide / Slide in all directions / Won't be nothing / Nothing you can measure anymore / The blizzard, the blizzard of the world / Has crossed the threshold / And it's overturned / The order of the soul... / There'll be phantoms / There'll be fires on the road / And the white man dancing..." So goes prophetic Cohen's gospel as though he always knew things would come to a head sooner, nevertheless the fall of the Berlin Wall and so forth prompted him to come up with the album at the time. Do check out the song in its entirety at leisure.

Elsewhere, in the UK, a covid inquiry is throwing up all kinds of absurd and idiosyncratic positions of people in power at that time in that country — something that resonates with the utter meltdown of values in these wayward times when satirists and caricaturists lose their jobs at leading media houses for their perceived 'insensitivity'.

Filling the vacuum are perhaps our leaders themselves now. For instance, then UK prime minister Boris Johnson, according to his then advisor, asked top scientists whether one could blow a hairdryer up one's nose to kill the covid-19 virus, or advisor Dominic Cummings engaging a barrage of expletives in communique pertaining to the deteriorating covid situation, or the then health secretary Matt Hancock prioritising who shall or shan't die first at the hospitals overwhelmed during the pandemic.

As the infamous Pegasus software was reportedly being used to find Israeli survivors amid the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, in India, reports emerged of software giant Apple warning legislators of their phones being hacked allegedly by state actors just as claimed during the Pegasus controversy some time ago. Now why would a software giant warn legislators for no reason?

Meanwhile, a member of Parliament, the Trinamool Congress' Mahua Moitra, stormed out of a parliamentary inquiry alleging harassment. Surely reality has caught up with satirists now made redundant by the imploding discourse. What's next?

BBMP plans to give saplings some TLC

Tender worth over ₹3 cr floated for maintenance of saplings planted, to be planted

BBMP plants countless saplings, but several of them do not survive due to a host of factors

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The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is planning to spend Rs 3 crore towards maintaining the 1 lakh plantations made in 2022-2023. Activists have welcomed the decision, but they also demanded accountability.

The Palike plants countless saplings, but several fail to survive due to various factors. So, this time around, in addition to the plantation, BBMP has decided to maintain these saplings too. For this purpose, the civic agency has floated a tender for the maintenance of trees planted in 2022-2023 and it will also include those that will be planted in 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. The tender has been floated for a sum of Rs 3,60,00,000 for nearly 2 lakh trees across Bengaluru for two years.

While the tender floated is for maintenance of the monsoon plantation drive undertaken by BBMP in 2022-2023, the tender also includes the 1 lakh trees that will be planted between 2023-2025. Maximum number of trees will be planted in Yelahanka zone (16,300) and Mahadevapura (15,800).

The Palike will be spending an estimated Rs 180 per tree as per the tender floated.

"The selected bidder will have to take up all measures to maintain the trees. Activities such as watering, weeding, manuring, and replacing dying plants will be undertaken. The maintenance work will be awarded for two years," said a senior BBMP official.

> **"Activities such as watering, weeding, manuring, and replacing dying plants will be undertaken** –BBMP official

Activists appreciated the move and said there should be better accountability for the trees. "While it is a commendable effort by the Palike to maintain the trees, there needs to be better accountability. We need to see data on the number of trees that survive through these efforts. The maintenance work should lead to results. We have been asking BBMP to maintain the trees as several of them don't survive. These trees need to be watered and taken care of," said Vijay Nishanth, a tree activist.

BBMP had undertaken the monsoon plantation drive by planting nearly 1 lakh saplings at the cost of Rs 9 crore in 2022. From seedling to raising it, BBMP had estimated that it would cost the Palike around Rs 990 per tree. The higher cost was accounted for by the installation of a bamboo tree guard. However, as per the previous tender, apart from plantation, maintenance works like watering were included in the services.

Why interconnected bus network is key

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Passengers are of the view that while the BMTC and state government are gearing up towards facilitating a large-scale adoption of public transport, they should ensure interconnected bus networks and not just hub and spoke models of bus stations.

"Every day, I am losing half an hour commuting up and down from KR Market to Kalasipalyam. A few buses coming from Majestic bus station stop at KR Market; we have to walk to the bus station to board the next bus. The lack of connectivity has troubled us," said Pavithra, a BMTC user for 14 years.

Another commuter added that previously buses used to stop at Avenue Road Circle: "We are facing connectivity issues, as neither the buses come to Avenue road as before nor the commuters are allowed to board at Victoria Hospital. There are no buses connecting Corporation Circle to Mysore Road. As a result, commuters along Mysore Road are facing problems with no option, but to walk, searching for connecting buses. Though the terminal is functioning, no other services are connected or stop at this terminal. Though brought to the notice of BMTC, they are least bothered about this. There is no point in talking about attracting more people towards public transport, when the basic issues are not addressed, despite raising complaints. Bengaluru being a potential smart city requires good connectivity to ensure smooth travel; BMTC lacks that, and if it is not able to provide it, it should allow private players (there used to be private buses and vans earlier). At the end of the day we need mobility," said Lakshmi, a regular commuter.

Commuters demanded BMTC run more buses from Corporation Circle connecting Mysore Road via Sirsi flyovers. BMTC users further complained buses going below the flyover have to traverse a lot of congestion which leads to increased commute time.

The commuters had made a representation to the state government and BMTC officials in August but they said no action was taken in this regard.

Timely action: Tackle forest fires head-on

K'taka Forest Department prepares to deal with fire incidents; officials say dry conditions might lead to accumulation of high biomass on forest floor

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File photo of destroyed land by a wildfire that broke out in the limits of Bandipur Tiger Reserve

With the wildfire season fast approaching, the Karnataka Forest Department is bracing up to tackle forest fire incidents head-on. According to officials from the Forest Resource Management wing of the department, preparations to deal with fire incidents will begin earlier, taking note of dry conditions this year due to El Nino.

Officials say last year's wet season, followed by this year's dry conditions, might lead to high fuel availability and thus an increase in the intensity and incidents of forest fires.

"Although it is too early to comment, this year might be challenging due to the El Nino effect. We are undergoing yet another dry spell currently, and such conditions might lead to the accumulation of high biomass on the forest floor. Based on our learnings from the last year, we have already prepared our action schedule and plan to get started with fire prevention activities soon. While the vastness of the forest area makes our work challenging, we are conducting our activities in a structured and planned manner to achieve the best result," said a senior official from the Forest Resource Management wing of the Karnataka Forest Department.

Karnataka, between November 2022 and March 2023, was featured among the top five states in the Forest Survey of India (FSI) reports about the number of fire alerts. As many as 11,088 fire incidents were recorded in the state using spatial information through SNPP.

> **"Although it is too early to comment, this year might be challenging due to the El Nino effect. We are undergoing yet another dry spell currently** –a senior official, Forest Resource Mangagement

The department has also zeroed in on certain forest patches with difficult terrain that are susceptible to fire.

"Our staff are equipped with blowers, sprayers, and other fire-fighting equipment. We also have three drones with thermal sensors to keep an eye on fire incidents. We will soon be starting fire drills and awareness camps. Fire watchers will be engaged during fire season, which starts in January. Looking at historical data, we will be focusing on areas that are difficult to access. Forest patches in Hassan, Sirsi, Shivamogga, and Bandipur will be on our radar. These areas are prone to fire incidents, and they also burn for long hours," said the official.

However, experts say the department's fire management efforts so far have been haphazard and inadequate and it has struggled with inadequate preparedness, monitoring, and lack of funds in the past, which has manifested in a higher number of fire incidents.

"Efforts to control and manage forest fire incidents have been irregular and chaotic so far. For instance, last year, the department was struggling to get adequate forest watchers. There are many cases of forest watchers not being paid or not paid on time. This is the reason many do not turn up during consecutive fire seasons. The most important aspect of efficient forest fire management is budgetary allocation. While the department gets a handful of forest watchers to keep an eye on protected areas, they hardly have funds to appoint watchers outside protected areas," said DV Girish, a wildlife conservationist from Chikmagalur.

Furthermore, experts said that adequate and timely precautionary measures have to be taken to prevent fire incidents. "Forest biomass starts to dry up after February 15, and this is when forelines can be created. Moreover, only the firelines should be burned, not big forest patches, as has been the norm in the past. There should be adequate foot soldiers to fight fire incidents in case of any," said an expert.

Many aspirants spring up for CM's post

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A day after claiming that he will be CM for a full five-year term, Siddaramaiah on Friday clarified that he merely said that he will abide by what the Congress High Command instructs. Meanwhile, there have been many aspirants throwing their hats into the ring, expressing their desire to become CM. Interestingly, these aspirants include Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, as his supporters have been demanding that DKS be made CM after a 2.5-year term.

On Thursday, Cooperation Minister KN Rajanna expressed his wish for someone from Tumakuru district to become CM. Rajanna mentioned that Parameshwara is the Home Minister today, and anything can happen in the future. He believes that Parameshwara has the fortune and luck to become chief minister in the coming days, and they will work to support that luck.

Reacting to this on Friday, the 72-year-old Parameshwara said, "I am grateful to Rajanna. I too desire for that luck to happen. There are many eligible candidates who can become CM. Let everyone get a chance." However, he denied any discussions on this issue when Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar visited his house in Tumakuru.

On the other hand, IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge stated, "The issue of change of guard is decided by four people in Delhi. As I have said, four people sit together in Delhi and decide. Barring those four people, whoever talks has no value. If the high command says that I am the chief minister, then I will say 'Yes' to it."

However, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's brother and Lok Sabha member DK Suresh said there is no meaning in discussing speculative questions when the chief minister's post is not vacant. "Siddaramaiah is the CM. The CM post is not vacant. This matter should be discussed when the post is vacant," he said.

Chinese rakes for Namma Metro soon

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After a prolonged delay, the Chinese-made rakes may soon be shipped to Bengaluru. Currently, two six-coach trains are ready and may be shipped to India. A team of BMRCL officials recently visited China to inspect the trains. An official mentioned that, as per the agreement, the Chinese company had entered into an agreement with BMRCL to supply 216 coaches (for 36 trains) by manufacturing these trains at a factory near Kolkata. Consequently, the Chinese company had earlier stated that it would supply two sets of trains by August this year. While two trains will be imported from China, the rest will be manufactured in India only.

Of the 216 coaches, 126 will be deployed for the purple line and 90 for the green line, with the remaining 90 for the yellow line. As of now, the yellow line that connects RV Road to Bommasandra is 'almost complete'. The train service was scheduled to start by year-end. However, due to a shortage of coaches, it has now been deferred to next year.

A team of BMRCL officials visited China to inspect the trains

Three coach metro trains for Phase 3

The BMRCL has accepted the condition by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) to run three coach metro trains on the proposed Magadi Road corridor instead of the originally planned six coach trains as a prerequisite for Phase 3 project approvals. The Karnataka government in November 2022 approved two Metro Phase 3 corridors – Hosahalli-Kadabagere corridor along Magadi Road measuring 12.5km and JP Nagar 4th Phase-Kempapura along Outer Ring Road-West spanning 32.1km. On the other hand, the MoHUA is yet to approve the project.

The Magadi Road section will have nine stations including Hosahalli, KHB Colony, Kamakshipalya, Sumanahalli Cross, Sunkadakatte, Herohalli, Byadarahalli, Kamath Layout, and Kadabagere. Meanwhile, the BMRCL will be conducting maintenance works on Sunday between Swami Vivekananda Road and Indiranagar metro stations on the purple line. In order to facilitate this work, metro train services on the purple line between MG Road and Baiyappanahalli metro stations will commence at 9 am instead of the usual 7 am start time, as stated in a press release. –BMB

In 2019, the Chinese company had bid to manufacture 216 coaches for Rs 1,578 crore, which was Rs 100 crore less than BMRCL estimates. However, as the company had failed to set up its manufacturing unit in India, production got delayed. The company then formed a tie-up with a Kolkata-based company, where the latter will manufacture. As per the details, the coaches are to be available by February next year, and yellow line operations may start in April. According to the plan, 12 trains with six coaches each will be deployed for the yellow line.

Providing updates on the yellow line recently on X, Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya said, "After the inspection of the civil works a month ago, I was convinced that the only major impediment to starting services in early 2024 is the availability of rolling stocks and the Train Control Management System (TCMS) software. I also had my own doubts about the February 2024 deadline to sort out these issues and operationalise the yellow line, as was suggested by BMRCL officials. I held a VC with various stakeholders, including CRRC, Titagarh Rail Systems, and BMRCL, to address both of these issues."

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

BEWITCHING BEAUTY

A yellow pansy perching on a stem in Basavanagudi

The picture was clicked by BM reader **Dr Usha Rao**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

Unlawful drilling: 'Protect our groundwater, please'

Residents of Whitefield raise concerns over illegal borewells; activists stress on KGWA's mandate to protect underground water

It is coming to light that the majority of the borewells that have been drilled in the past few years are actually illegal in the city. Residents of Whitefield say that since Bengaluru is an over-exploited zone, the Karnataka Ground Water Authority (KGWA) has to limit the issue of permissions, except for the essential ones.

"We see borewells being drilled every day everywhere. What most of us didn't realise is that the contractors and site owners were drilling them illegally, and it amounts to ground water theft," says a resident of Whitefield.

Residents added that since there has been no oversight and poor enforcement by the authority, i.e., the KGWA, and patchy enforcement by BWSSB, site owners have been drilling borewells left, right, and centre. These borewells are mainly used now for construction work, which is banned. Many say that they find it shocking that law enforcement is lacking. No borewell permissions are given for empty plots, so it is easy to spot illegal borewells and take action against them.

> **"We see borewells being drilled every day. What most of us didn't realise is that the contractors were drilling them illegally**
>
> –a resident of Whitefield

"People generally don't even know the KGWA is the authority that permits or enforces the rules. And even if the illegal borewell drilling is reported, there is confusion on who has to act and how on paper. There are serious penalties and even imprisonment for violators, but authorities are sleeping. Meanwhile, due to this, Bengaluru is racing away towards ground zero," said Sandeep Anirudhan, Convenor, Coalition for Water Security.

Very soon, there won't be any water left. The sole purpose of the KGWA's existence is to protect the groundwater and prevent its misuse. The minister in charge needs to convene an emergency meeting to review why KGWA is so delinquent, added Anirudhan.

"A robust response mechanism needs to be put in place, with sufficient staff and real-time response capacity, either by KGWA itself or in collaboration with BWSSB, but with a clear SOP and responsibility matrix. The most important thing is to set up a public helpline where people can report borewell drilling anonymously. This needs to be set up using X (previously Twitter), phone, email, and WhatsApp," he explained.

Residents of the area have also written letters to the officials urging them to take action. **— Ahna Prakash**

Bangalore Mirror
Bengaluru is not making every drop count
Rock bottom

BM's report on October 29 about citizens observing drop in the groundwater level

DID YOU KNOW?

Ricky Kej, a three-time Grammy Award winner, moved to Bengaluru when he was just eight years old. He went to Bishop Cotton Boys' School in the city and later pursued dentistry. After completing his studies, he chose to make a career in music. He was announced as a UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador in December 2022. He has created music for over 3,000 ads. His albums Divine Tides and Winds of Samsara have won him Grammys. He is known to have travelled widely, speaking about the environment.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAPTHECHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

How would you describe the overall quality of life in Bengaluru?

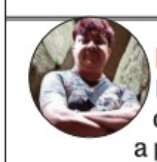
Praneeth Ramesh, BM Reader
Being born and brought up in Bengaluru, I will always have a soft spot for this city. Compared to other metropolitan cities, the quality of life is definitely better here, mainly due to the weather and loads of interesting activities to do.

Harshitha U, BM Reader
Bengaluru is the city of lights and youthful lives. As a citizen living in this city for the past 12 years, I have witnessed almost every part of this ever-growing and developing city. Bengaluru has been the choice, not an option.

Kalp L Jain, BM Reader
The quality of life in Bengaluru is great. Last-mile connectivity, thriving startups, and good infrastructure are making things easier. Excessive traffic is one big thing that spoils the party.

Aditya Hampiholi, BM Reader
Living in Bengaluru has been an incredible experience for me. It's not just a city; it's my hometown, the place where I was born and raised. I have a deep affection for the bustling city life here.

Krupa BG, BM Reader
The quality of life in Bengaluru is generally quite good. But since it is growing so quickly, things are changing too. Since the city is a major IT hub, it is a very attractive destination for people looking for a new career.



Ravishankar, BM Reader
Bengaluru offers a good quality of life with a vibrant culture, a pleasant climate, and diverse opportunities. However, the city also faces challenges such as traffic congestion, pollution, and infrastructural gaps.

SPEAK TO US

How can the traffic situation be improved on Bengaluru's roads?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

‘Illegal’ diggers of roads will pay

BBMP makes it clear to govt agencies that roads can be dug up only after its nod; clears out unauthorised cables

Unauthorised cables being removed

| Sridhar Vivan
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The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has now warned the government agencies like BESCOM and BWSSB that they would have to pay a penalty if they dig up the road without permission from the civic agency. For long, there has been a lack of coordination and blame game going on between the agencies as BBMP lays roads and in some time, the road is being dug up thereby wasting taxpayers’ money. During a meeting at Mahadevapura zone recently, BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath had warned of a penalty for the government agencies digging up roads.

Meanwhile, the BBMP on Thursday began removal of illegally installed OFC cables on the Outer Ring Road in Mahadevapura zone. On Thursday, during a meeting, Nath had issued instructions to officials to remove all the unauthorised cables. The clearance operation was taken up from Iblur Junction till Kadugodi on the Outer Ring Road in Mahadevapura zone. The teams are focusing on removing cables illegally hung on electric poles, installed on footpaths, flyovers, and trees.

> “Approximately 14 tractor loads of cables, spanning a length of 10 km have been cut and cleared
> – BBMP official

“Over 10 teams have been deployed for the unauthorised OFC cable clearing operation. Approximately 14 tractor loads of unauthorised cables, spanning a length of 10 km on both sides of the road, have been cut and cleared using electric vehicle ladders. The snapped cables have been transported and stored in the BBMP’s vacant spaces for disposal. We have taken up this drive to enhance public safety and ensure smooth traffic flow. Any further unauthorised cable installations will face prompt removal, accompanied by legal action against the concerned organizations,” said an official.

Suburban rail: ‘It’s complicated’

The Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project’s Corridor-4 (Kanaka Line) work is yet to take shape as the South Western Railways has not handed over its land for the project, saying “it’s complicated”. The Kanaka Line connects Rajanukunte in the north to Heelalige in the south, passing through Baiyappanahalli and Yelahanka. Despite Railway Board Gati Shakti director Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed asking the South Western Railway General Manager to expedite the process of handing over land to Karnataka’s Rail Infrastructure Development Company Limited (K-RIDE), there seemed to be a delay.

In his letter on October 27, Ahmed reminded the SWR GM that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced that the project will be completed in 40 months while laying the foundation stone on June 20, 2022. “During the review of the project, it is learnt that the Letter of Agreement of contract for Corridor-4 is not being issued by K-RIDE, due to unavailability of required land for Corridor-4. K-RIDE has stated that the proposal for 194.07 acre railway land has already been submitted to Zonal Railway,” the Gati Shakti Director (Railway Board) said.

“In view of the above, the Zonal Railway is requested to make the land available to K-RIDE for Corridor-4 in order to complete the project on the given timeline,” he added. Speaking to PTI, Bengaluru Divisional Railway Manager Yogesh Mohan said, “These are not so simple. It’s a complicated issue.”

‘Citizens for Citizens’, an NGO led by Rajkumar Dugar, termed the South Western Railways’ stand disappointing. “If this is their stand, then it is disappointing because BSRP is Railways’ baby. If the senior officials are so casual at this stage after three years (of conceiving the project), then the future does not look bright for this project,” he said. When contacted, a K-RIDE official declined to comment. — PTI

City gets centre for computational oncology

Param Hansa Philanthropies (PHP) has set up a Centre for Computational Oncology at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

The Centre was officially launched on Thursday.

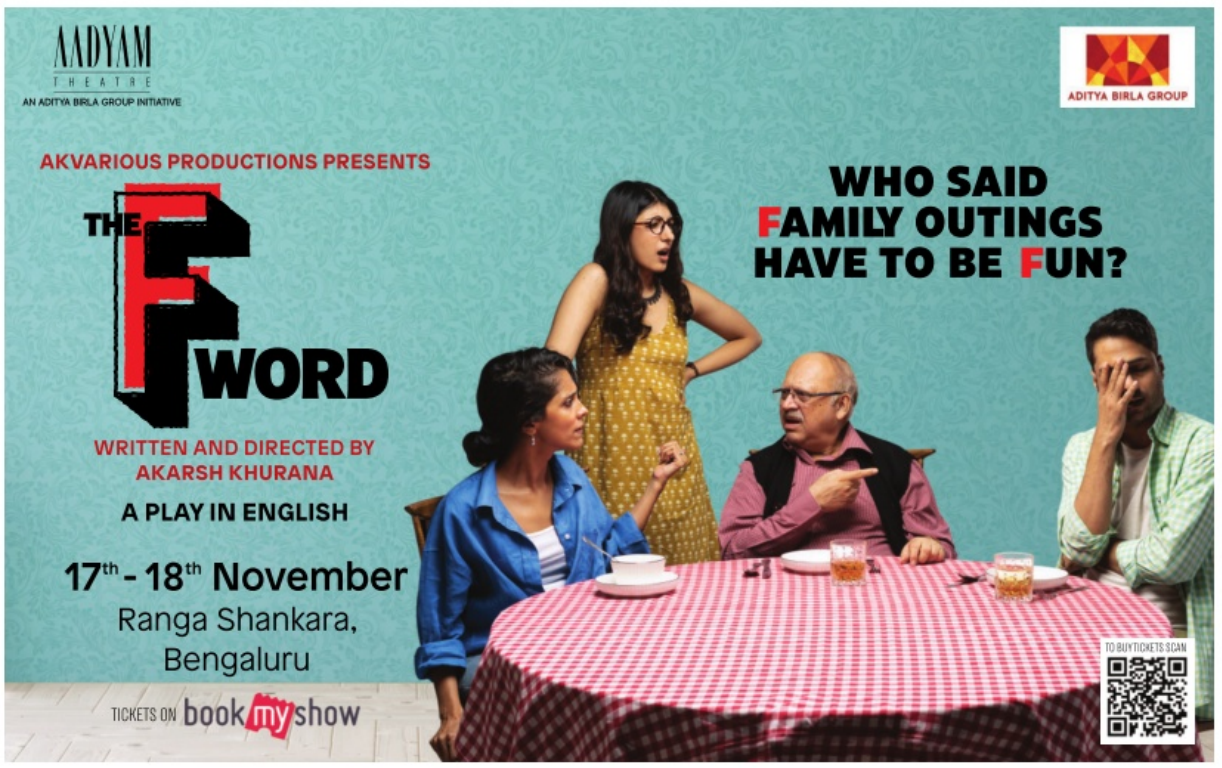
The Param Hansa Centre for Computational Oncology (PHCCO) aims to foster research in predictive and quantitative mathematical models of cancer progression, metastasis, and tumour relapse, to identify the underlying dynamics of these multi-scale processes and to eventually improve patient outcomes in the clinic.

The centre aims to nurture a community of future leaders in computational oncology in India, through inter-institutional, cross-disciplinary collaborations among researchers in academia, medicine, and industry.

The partnership was facilitated through the IISc Foundation, a non-profit entity set up in the USA, to support research and infrastructure development at IISc.

Param Hansa Philanthropies will support the Centre with USD 1 million over the next seven years.

Prof Govindan Rangarajan, Director of IISc, said, “At IISc, we are constantly seeking to push frontiers in cutting-edge research and encourage cross-disciplinary partnerships that solve pressing clinical challenges. We look forward to the exciting projects and solutions that will emerge from this new Centre.” — BMB



Silt tripping on Outer Ring Road

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and choke it. They said two-wheeler riders are vulnerable to road accidents if their vehicles skid due to the slush when it rains. "I want the authorities concerned to engage people to clear the accumulated silt for the benefit of two-wheeler riders," said Ravi Kumar, a motorist. For instance, the drain-cum-footpath at the underpass near Kalyan Nagar on the Outer Ring Road has turned into a garbage dumping place over time. Though not many pedestrians use the drain-cum-footpath, it is not safe for anyone to walk on.

"The BBMP health department or solid waste management department has failed to ensure there is no dumping of garbage at public places. I want the BBMP authorities to clear garbage and keep a vigil on those dumping garbage here," said Munikrishna S, a resident of Kalyan Nagar.

Meanwhile, BBMP assistant executive engineer for solid waste management said she would inform the ward engineer to remove the accumulated silt on the flyover. "I will take measures to remove the garbage at the underpass," the assistant executive engineer said.

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Let there be... suspense

GARUDA PURANA
3.0 RATING
- **DIRECTOR** Manjunatha B Nagba
- **ACTORS** Manjunatha B Nagba, Disha Shetty, Mahendra Gowda, Kencha, Santosh Karki
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 140 minutes

Though Manjunatha B Nagba debuts as an independent director with this movie, he has done a good job with the acting and editing of this film too. He has also succeeded in combining two crime stories and one love story into one film. The film's success is that it keeps the audience on the edge of their seats, especially in the final scenes.

The movie begins with CS Pura Police receiving information about finding a young woman's body packed in a gunny bag at an isolated place. The police claim it is the 13th such body found. Disturbed with the serial killings of girls, police form a Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by Vikrant Karki (Santosh Karki) to investigate the case.

At this point, the director introduces a love story between Mayuk (Manjunatha G Nagba) and Nandini (Disha Shetty). Mayuk, with the help of his friends Roshan (Mahendra Gowda) and Kencha (Kencha), meets Nandini. Nandini's brother (Anup), an astrologer, comes to know about her relationship with Mayuk. Police then find Nandini's body in a gunny bag. They succeed in nabbing Mani (Cheluvaraj) and his gang responsible for raping and killing many girls. But, they find that Nandini was not killed by Mani and his gang. Police take Mayuk into custody suspecting that he is behind Nandini's murder. Who is the real killer is what Garuda Purana is all about.

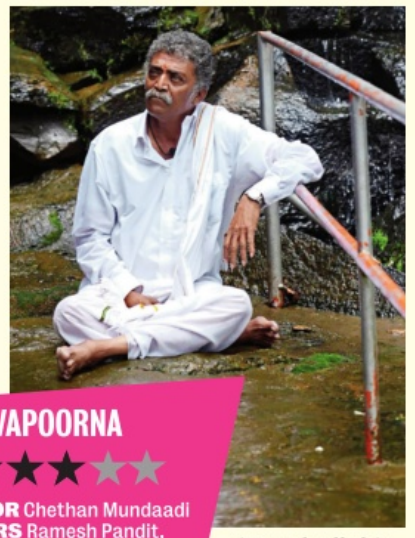
Though the first half of the movie drags on a little bit, the post-intermission session is quite interesting.

As far as the performance of the actors is concerned, Disha Shetty looks pretty. And though she appears only in a few scenes, she deserves appreciation for her dialogue delivery and gestures. Cheluvaraj, who plays a mute responsible for the killings of the girls, has acted well. Rajkumar, Sushmitha, Kencha, and Mahendra Gowda provide good support. Among the actors, it is Santosh Karki, as a police officer, who steals the show.

All in all, it is worth a watch for those who love suspense thrillers.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

Quirky with a unique touch



BHAVAPOORNA
3.0 RATING
- **DIRECTOR** Chethan Mundaadi
- **ACTORS** Ramesh Pandit, Shylashree Aras, Atharva Prakash, Veenya Rai, and Manjunath Hegde.
- **CERTIFICATION** U
- **Duration** 126 minutes

This is the third movie of national and state award winning director Chethan Mundaadi after Tulu movie Madipu and Kannada movie Varnapatala. For this film, Mundaadi has selected a subject that is related to the 90s where people did not have mobile phones and the internet.

The movie opens with school children going on an excursion to a historical place. They meet a guide who tells them the story of Dharmanna (Ramesh Pandit), an ingenuous person. Dharmanna has no luxuries except religiously working at the village panchayat office and tolerating his bossy wife Jalaja (Shylashree). He attends the funeral of his friend and realises the importance of having his photograph taken before he kicks the bucket. The more he tries to get his picture taken, the more it becomes elusive.

The director introduces a love story of Sekhari (Atharva Prakash), who works at a fair price depot and Radhe (Veenya Rai), the daughter of Seenappa (Manjunath Hegde), a corrupt member of a cooperative society. Seenappa comes to know about his daughter falling in love with Sekhari and decides to teach Sekhari a lesson.

Dharmanna retires from service and tries his best to get his photograph taken. He even visits a photo studio in a nearby city and sells his scooter to raise money to pay the photo studio owner. Will he succeed in realising his lifetime ambition? What happens to Sekhari and Radhe is what Bhavapoorana is all about.

Veteran actor Ramesh Pandit is at his best. His performance in a scene where he begs for Shailashree's pardon for attempting to steal her jewellery is superb. Shailashree, as a virago, has acted well. Manujanth Hegde, as a corrupt member of a cooperative society, is convincing. This film is worth a watch for all

.—Y Maheswara Reddy

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Mamtha.M.Shanbhougue W/o, Muralidhara Srinivasa Shanbhogue ,No 504, Tower 1, Salarpuria Sattava Anugraha No 8/1, 1st Main Road, Pete Channappa Industrial Area, Sajjepalya village, Basaveshwara Nagar, Bengaluru 560079, KA states that my husband has changed his name from Muralidhara Shrinivasa Shanbhogue to Muralidhar Srinivasa Shanbhogue for all purposes.

I Jetti Shashidhar Rao Balaswamy S/o J Balaswamy R/at B19, Vizipa Optima Apartments, Radha Reddy Layout, Doddakannalli, Sarjapur Road, Bangalore 560035 have changed name as Jetti Shashidhar Rao vide affidavit dtd 03/11/2023 in front of Notary Y V Shankar Bangalore.

I YERAMADDU JANAKIRAM REDDY R/O NEW-17 OLD-46/20 1st A Cross P Veerappa Road Hanumanthanagar B-19 have changed my name as YARAMADDU JANAKIRAM REDDY vide Affidavit Dated 02/11/2023 before Notary PUTTARAMAIAH Banagalore

I YERAMADDU SARALA REDDY R/O NEW-17 OLD-46/20 1st A Cross P Veerappa Road Hanumanthanagar B-19 have changed my name as YARAMADDU SARALA REDDY vide Affidavit Dated 02/11/2023 before Notary PUTTARAMAIAH Banagalore

I, Aditya Raj Mandhapalli S/o. M R Devaraj, R/a. 171, Shri Nilayam, Besthara Street Cross, Near Government Urdu School, Yelahanka B'lore- 64. I have changed my name to ADITHYA RAJ. Vide affidavit Date: 02.11.2023. Sworn before Notary: Devaraja.E.

I, MOHAMED ZABIULLA AMEER JAN. R/a 3928, Khadirappa Layout Tippunagar Bangarpet-563114 I, have changed my name to MOHAMMED ZABIULLA, Vide affidavit dated 02/11/2023, Sworn before Notary: Meer Hassan, Bangalore

I Sai Sudha Rajesh W/O, Rajesh Somashekara R/o No.24, 2nd Cross, S B M Colony Brindavanagar, Bengaluru - 560054 have changed my name to Sai Sudha Nagaraj.

I, Manjunatha Raju. N R/o #9, Sneha Nilaya, 1st cross, 1st main, Chamundeswari layout, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore - 560097 have changed my minor daughter's name from Priya Darshani. M to Priya Darshini.M for all purposes.

I Ankita Pohonerkar D/O, Suhas Pohonerkar R/o T8/1103 Runwal Greens Mulund Goregaon Link Rd Mumbai Mumbai Suburban Maharashtra - 400078 have changed my name to Ankita Suhas Pohonerkar.

I, Ramasubbamma W/o Narayanappa Polur R/o 349 15th Cross , 17th main , 4th Sec, HSR layout B'lore-560102 have changed my name to Ramasubbamma Polur for all purposes.

I, Tanveer Ahmed N S/O, Nayaz Ahmed R/o No 01 Chuttupalya Kodipalya Dakale Kengeri Bangalore 560060 have changed my name to Tanveer Ahmed for all purposes.

I Victor Paulraj David S/O, David Kovilpilllai Also Known As David R/o No.50,elite Palms, medarahalli, abbigere, bengaluru -560090 have changed my name to Victor Paulraj.

I, Priya Kumari W/O, Shivam Charan R/o C 141, Mahaveer Dazzle Basavana Nagar Main Rd Bengaluru Karnataka-560 048 have changed my name to Priya Charan for all purposes

I, Diana Johnson F D/o Freddy Johnson R/o No.409, 4th Floor, Mayur Paradise, Sompura Gate, Sompura, Bangalore-562125, have changed my name to Diana Johnson

I, SYED ABUBAKER, R/a, Ward No.27, Shameer Mohalla, Mulbagal, Kolar-563131 I, have changed my name to SYED ABUBAKAR, Vide affidavit dated 02/11/2023, Sworn before Notary Meer Hassan Bangalore

I, AYESHA FARHEEN W/o Mohammed Altaf Sulaiman R/at No.29/2, 1st Cross, Millers road, Benson Town, Bangalore-560046 have changed my name to AYSHA FARHEEN, affidavit dated 16.10.2023 before notary Prasad Shetty K.B, B.lore.

I, Moin Shariff Abdul Gaffar Shariff S/o Abdul Gaffar Shariff R/o No 13 1st Cross Ramakka Block Beson Town Bangalore 560046 have changed my name to Moin Shariff.

SIZZLING STYLE

Alia sure knows a thing or two about party gear

Alia Bhatt has always been a style icon. The actress continued the tradition at Shah Rukh Khan's 58th birthday bash. She attended the star-studded party in a stylish outfit.

Taking to Instagram, Alia shared a few pictures where she is seen in a strapless mini dress featuring a structured neckline with a corseted bustier. She complemented her stunning attire with minimal accessorising.

Karisma Kapoor also shared a group picture featuring her close family members in one frame. In the photo, Alia Bhatt is seen hugging Ranbir Kapoor as he poses candidly. "Making memories with our friends and family #famjam #foreverfriends.", she captioned.

Alia Bhatt and Shah Rukh have worked together in 'Dear Zindagi'. The actor had an extended cameo in Ranbir Kapoor's 'Ae Dil Hai Mushkil' and in 'Brahmastra: Part One - Shiva'. Shah Rukh Khan was recently seen in the blockbuster film 'Jawan', which was helmed by Atlee. The actor will next be seen in Rajkumar Hirani's 'Dunki'. The film will hit the big screen in December this year. Alia Bhatt was last seen in 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani'. The actress is currently shooting for 'Jigra'.

—ETimes

Whose job will AI replace?

Here's why a clerk in Ethiopia has more to fear than one in California

Artificial intelligence is changing the world – and one of the main areas it will affect in the short-to-medium term is the workforce. AI algorithms imitate real-world systems. The more repetitive a system is, the easier it is for AI to replace it. That's why jobs in customer service, retail and clerical roles are regularly named as being the most at risk.

That doesn't mean other jobs won't be affected. The latest advances in AI have shown all kinds of creative work and white-collar professions stand to be impacted to various degrees.

However, there's one important point that's usually not addressed in discussions about AI's impact on jobs. That is: where you work may be as important as what you do.

Current trends and projections suggest people in developing countries, where a higher proportion of jobs involve repetitive or manual tasks, will be the first and most affected.

"The majority of fastest declining roles are clerical or secretarial roles, with bank tellers, postal clerks and cashiers expected to decline fastest –Future of Jobs report

Privileged by geography

According to the World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs report, emerging technologies and digitalisation are among the biggest driving factors for job displacement. The report states: The majority of fastest declining roles are clerical or secretarial roles, with bank tellers and related clerks, postal service clerks, cashiers and ticket clerks, and data entry clerks expected to decline fastest.

Let's take an office clerk as an example, whose responsibilities include answering phones, taking messages and scheduling appointments. We now have access to AI tools that can perform all these tasks.

They can also work non-stop, for free (or a fraction of the price), without being affected by personal problems, and without having to mentally strain to optimise their workflow. Of course they're going to be attractive to employers!

At first glance, you might assume an office clerk living in a developed country is more likely to lose their job than their counterpart in a developing country, since the former seems more likely to implement new AI tools.

In reality, however, it's expected more people in developing countries will lose their jobs. The success of each nation will depend on how well it can adapt to the displacement of its workforce.

In 2009, the United Nations International Telecommunication Union created the information and communication technologies (ICT) development index to benchmark and compare ICT performance within and across countries.

This index measures, among other things:

1. The level and evolution over time of information and communication technologies in different countries

2. How each country's experience compares to others'

3. The extent to which a country can develop and use these technologies to boost its own growth and development in the context of the capabilities and skills available.

In other words, a country's score on this index can be correlated with how well it adapts to emerging technologies such as AI.

Unsurprisingly, developed countries rank higher than the rest of the world. In 2012, the top five ranking countries were the Republic of Korea, Sweden, Iceland, Denmark and Finland. The bottom five were Eritrea, Burkina Faso, Chad, the Central African Republic and Niger.

Wealth and opportunity makes a difference

The World Bank has divided the world by income and region, showing developing countries are among the lowest earners.

Generally speaking, employing people is much easier in developing countries, due to lower wages, tighter competition and less regulation to support employees.

The World Bank estimates about 84 per cent of the world's working-age population lives in developing countries. Similarly, a 2008 report from the International Labour Organisation estimated 73 per cent of all the world's workers lived in developing countries, while only 14 per cent lived in advanced industrial countries.

That means whatever clerical jobs aren't taken by AI in developing countries will become more competitive than most people can handle. As World Bank senior economist Indhira Santos wrote in 2016, in reference to the digital revolution,"[…] the jobs where workers are likely to lose out are disproportionally held by the least educated and the bottom 40 percent of the income distribution. As a result, the biggest risk from the digital revolution is not massive unemployment, but widening income inequality."

These factors will result in an employer-ruled ecosystem in developing countries. These countries have both a higher occurrence of jobs that can be replaced or displaced (such as call centre jobs), and less of the money and skills needed to implement AI tools effectively.

The cost and affordability of AI programmes and algorithms will also speed up this process in certain regions.

Critical thinking remains important

Experts note AI will create many employment opportunities, including jobs that don't yet exist. It's just that not all countries will be well-equipped to make the transition when the time comes.

The Future of Jobs report says "analytical thinking and creative thinking remain the most important skills for workers". So if you're worried about keeping your job in the future, it's worth acquiring more of these skills. Beyond that, you might stop and consider how the place you live could play a role in whether you'll have work in the future – and if you happen to live in a wealthy, developed country, consider yourself lucky.

(By Niusha Shafiabady, Charles Darwin University, The Conversation)

Elon Musk issues warning about 'humanoid robots'

The owner of X Elon Musk on Thursday predicted the future with AI would be an "age of abundance" with a "universal high income" instead of a universal basic income but warned of "humanoid robots" that might chase humans.

Musk was speaking during a conversation with British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak following a world-first AI summit at Bletchley Park in the UK.

The SpaceX and Tesla CEO said there would come a point when "no job is needed" in the one-to-one with Sunak which was held later in London.

Jobs instead would be just for those who wanted one for "personal satisfaction".

AI was like "a magic genie" that gives you any wishes you want, Musk added, quipping however that those fairy tales rarely end well.

"One of the future challenges is how do you find meaning in life?" he said.

Musk cautioned that "we should be quite concerned" about humanoid robots that "can follow you anywhere". The tech billionaire stressed the importance of having a physical off switch.

"A humanoid robot can basically chase you anywhere," he said.

"It's something we should be quite concerned about. If a robot can follow you anywhere, what if they get a software update one day, and they're not so friendly any more?"

Sunak responded that "we've all watched" movies about robots that end with the machines being switched off.

The two-day gathering at Bletchley wrapped up Thursday with Western governments and companies involved in so-called next generation "frontier" AI agreeing a new safety testing regime.

–AFP

BITS & BYTES

Threads lets you copy & paste

Instagram head Adam Mosseri has announced some new features on the web version of Threads, including the copy and paste option and add multiple posts option.

In a post shared on Threads on Thursday, Mosseri said users now get the ability to tweak alt text on photos and videos when they post from the web.

Users can now copy and paste or drag and drop media attachments to their posts and can add multiple posts to a thread before publishing.

In addition, Mosseri mentioned users will now be able to see quotes and reposts by clicking into likes or views on a post.

"Hope this makes it easier to join in on conversations from the web. Try them out, and let us know if there are other features you'd like to see," Mosseri wrote.

Reacting to the features, several users expressed their thoughts and requested to add some more features. **–IANS**

Top security

Microsoft has launched a new initiative called "Secure Future Initiative" (SFI) across the company to advance cybersecurity protection and to tackle the evolving cyber threat landscape.

This new initiative comprises three key pillars -- AI-based cyber defences, advances in fundamental software engineering, and advocacy for stronger application of international norms to protect civilians from cyber threats.

Under AI-based cyber defences, the tech giant aims to use AI to detect and respond to cyber threats rapidly. By utilising advanced AI tools and techniques, Microsoft's Threat Intelligence Center will enhance its threat analysis capabilities.

–IANS

Crypto fraud: FTX founder convicted

FTX founder Sam Bankman-Fried's spectacular rise and fall in the cryptocurrency industry — a journey that included his testimony before Congress, a Super Bowl advertisement and dreams of a future run for president — hit rock bottom Thursday when a New York jury convicted him of fraud for stealing at least $10 billion from customers and investors.

After the month long trial, jurors rejected Bankman-Fried's claim during testimony in Manhattan federal court that he never committed fraud or meant to cheat customers before FTX, once the world's second-largest crypto exchange, collapsed into bankruptcy a year ago. **–AP**

HEALTH TIP: Leafy greens are loaded with calcium that strengthens the bones

Peanut oil contains Vitamin E and other antioxidants that prevent cell damage

The silent patient

Endometriosis afflicts millions of women, but few feel comfortable talking about it

Endometriosis causes physical, sexual and emotional pain. About 190 million people around the globe have endometriosis, including one in 10 American women, but there has historically been a deafening silence about the disease and the pervasive impact it can have on a person's life.

While endometriosis is a chronic gynecological illness that can affect anyone with a uterus – women, transgender men and nonbinary individuals – it often goes undiagnosed because its symptoms can be attributed to other physical or psychological concerns. Patients presenting with this pain are often told it is "all in your head."

However, endometriosis is becoming a more visible illness, thanks in part to celebrities such as Lena Dunham, Chrissy Teigen, Amy Schumer, Whoopi Goldberg and others who have begun sharing their stories publicly. After going undiagnosed for 23 years, Padma Lakshmi, a popular cookbook author, actress and host of the TV show "Top Chef," founded EndoFund, previously Endometriosis Foundation of America, in 2009 so that others do not have to go through what she did.

I am a couple and family therapy professor, clinician and researcher. My own endometriosis diagnosis at the age of 19 has inspired my work exploring how this illness affects others beyond the physical symptoms.

To better understand the impact of endometriosis on relationships, I interviewed 10 couples about their experiences of diagnosis, treatment and living with this disease. Through their stories of how endometriosis-related pain can affect every aspect of daily life, including their intimate relationships, I provide some specific recommendations. The quotes I have included in this article are from my doctoral dissertation research.

The basics of endometriosis

When a person has endometriosis, the endometrial cells that line their uterus "implant" in places outside the uterus, such as the ovaries, fallopian tubes and the lining of the abdomen — called the peritoneum. At the end of each menstrual cycle, the uterus sheds its lining, which exits the body via the cervix and vagina. The "misplanted" endometrial cells also shed, but they have no place to go – resulting in internal bleeding, inflammation and pain.

An endometriosis diagnosis is described in stages related to the visual presence of the disease, from minimal, or Stage 1, to severe, or Stage 4. However, there is no connection between the stage and the experience of pain.

One symptom of endometriosis is intense pain during the menstrual cycle. Another is pain with sex. Because pain with menses or sex can be attributed to "normal" pain, a history of sexual abuse or psychiatric reasons such as a dislike of sex, some people with endometriosis wait an average of seven years for diagnosis, which can be visually confirmed only through a procedure called laparoscopy.

In addition to these and other types of severe pain, endometriosis can also cause infertility, and patients who want to have children must often undergo medical or surgical interventions to conceive.

Impacts on school, work and sex

Physical pain from endometriosis can be debilitating. Adolescents with endometriosis may struggle to keep up with their classes, friends, homework or extracurricular activities when the pain becomes too severe. They may shift to home-schooling or virtual learning to complete their studies.

The pain can also deeply affect a career trajectory. "I almost lost my job because of time off," one interviewee told me. "In fact, when I had to get my hysterectomy, I walked in to tell my manager and he goes, 'Well, I hope you're not going to tell me that you have to have a hysterectomy and have to be out for six weeks!' And I just broke down in tears."

All of my participants shared experiences where doctors dismissed complaints of sexual pain – called dyspareunia – from endometriosis. This can delay diagnosis and treatment.

Sex and intimacy often become nonexistent, while some couples shared that they have come to accept that pain is part of sex. One woman shared with me: "I don't want to be touched or have my naked body seen because I feel bloated and ugly and I'm in horrible pain!"

Partners can also be affected emotionally. "I just feel horrible," one told me. "There are times when we are having sex that I actually feel guilty that I know that I am hurting her and I know she is going to be in pain and it makes me unhappy."

These experiences of pain, of not being believed by doctors and professionals, of negative effects on education and career and of intimacy destroyed create a heavy emotional burden on individuals and relationships.

Breaking the silence around endometriosis

When I was diagnosed with endometriosis, it changed the course of my life. My partner and I learned to expand our definition of intimacy and to redistribute household responsibilities when I was incapacitated. As the risk of infertility only increases without intervention, we started conversations about having children earlier than anticipated. My diagnosis also led me to focus my professional identity as a medical family therapist to help others deal with endometriosis and chronic illnesses.

Based on this experience, here are some ways to break this silence:

- Learn about endometriosis. It directly helps when one's support systems are educated.
- Separate the person from the disease. When the pain you are experiencing from endometriosis is debilitating, help those around you who are also affected to understand that it is because of your endometriosis and it is not personal.
- Speak from your own experience, saying, "I …" rather than "You …" When we do this, it decreases the other person's defenses and opens up the communication, making space for connection.

Recommendations from people living it

My research participants shared their own recommendations with me, especially the importance of believing that their pain is real; accept that what they are sharing is their very real experience, and let them know that they are believed.

Bestselling author and social work researcher Brené Brown has said, "Empathy fuels connection, sympathy drives disconnection." Approaching someone with endometriosis from a position of empathy sends a message that you want to work with them collaboratively.

By practicing these important relationship skills, we can break the silence around endometriosis.

(By Kristina S Brown, Adler University, The Conversation)

All you need to know about...

Sleepless night blues

Mood-lifter
While waking up all night can exhaust you both mentally and physically, an interesting study claims that it can lift your mood for days.

Dose of dopamine
In a new study, neurobiologists Northwestern University in the US induced mild, acute sleep deprivation in mice and then examined their behaviours and brain activity.
Not only did dopamine release increase during the acute sleep loss period, synaptic plasticity also was enhanced -- literally rewiring the brain to maintain the bubbly mood for the next few days.

To understand transition
The new findings, published online in the journal Neuron, could help researchers better understand how mood states transition naturally.
It also could lead to a more complete understanding of how fast-acting antidepressants (like ketamine) work and help researchers identify previously unknown targets for new antidepressant medications.

Brief sleep loss rewires the brain
"Chronic sleep loss is well studied, and it's uniformly detrimental effects are widely documented," said Professor Yevgenia Kozorovitskiy at the varsity. "But brief sleep loss -- like the equivalent of a student pulling an all-nighter before an exam -- is less understood. "We found that sleep loss induces a potent antidepressant effect and rewires the brain. This is an important reminder of how our casual activities, such as a sleepless night, can fundamentally alter the brain in as little as a few hours," Kozorovitskiy added.

Word of caution
He also cautions people not to start pulling all-nighters in order to brighten a blue mood. —IANS

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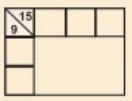
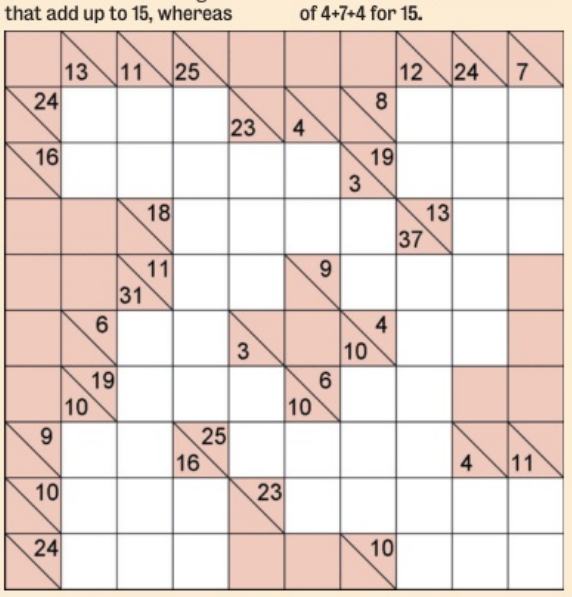
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

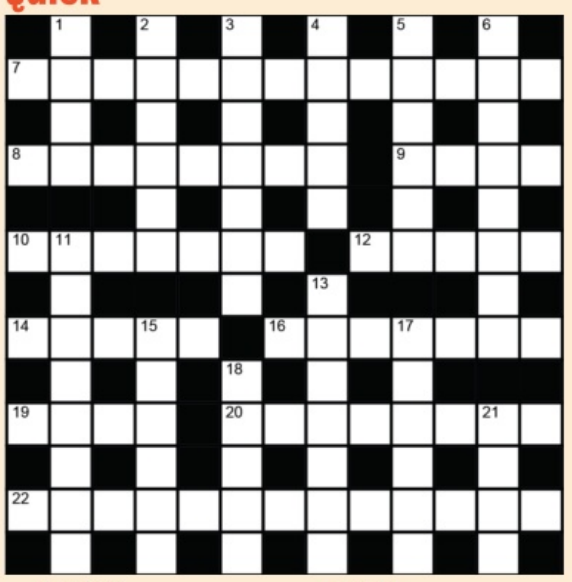


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Painstaking (13)
8 Fended off, rebuffed or repelled (8)
9 Component (4)
10 Training school (7)
12 Throw or hurl (5)
14 A rough path (5)
16 More temperamental (7)
19 Renown (4)
20 Establishes, sets up or originates (8)
22 Misgivings (13)

DOWN

1 System of rules (4)
2 Published, put out (6)
3 Charming (7)
4 Maliciously derogatory (5)
5 Cause to vanish (6)
6 French word for 40 (8)
11 22 acre park between M.G Road and Cubbon Road (8)
13 Give permission (7)
15 Applauds (6)
17 Batting legend Rahul ____ (6)
18 Attractive-colloquially speaking (5)
21 Respiratory organ (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: I EQUALS G

MBLKV LF BTCDK KODFKLHI ICP RVYH XCD VBEY DHBHFRYOYP ADYFKLCHF.

Linemaro

Hey, don't frown. You never know who could be falling in love with your smile

Mindchow

Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself

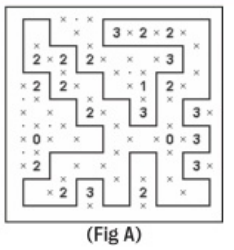
Joke of the day

I have to exercise early in the morning before my brain figures out what I am doing

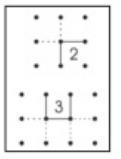
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

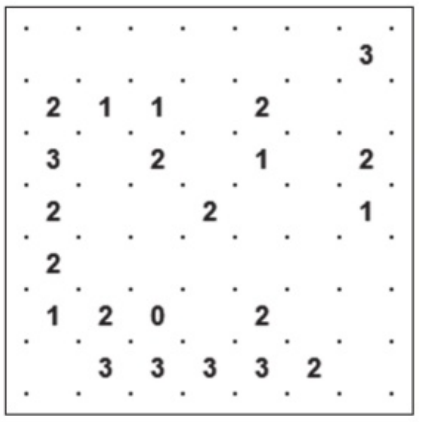


(Fig B) Not Allowed

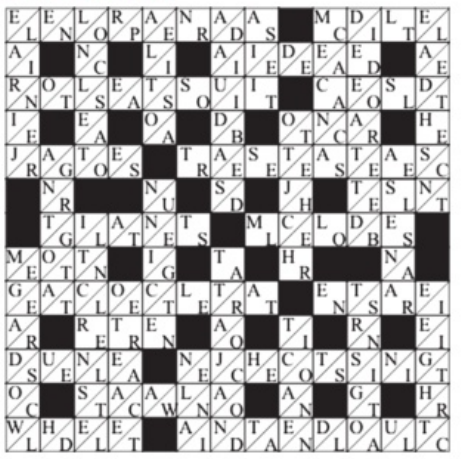
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6			P	
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

1 Forts; 6 Up Leo; 7 Re tut; 8 Stone; 9 Edgar

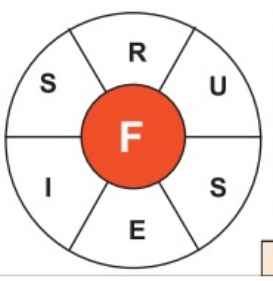
DOWN

1 LF gun; 2 To Orr; 3 A tout; 4 Deeps; 5 Reset

Mensapuzzle

Start at one of the four corner letters and spiral clockwise round the perimeter, finishing at the centre letter to spell out a nine-letter word. You must provide the missing letters.

	N	E
A	M	T
M		I



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

05 Average; 06 Good; 08 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

7			5		2			3
	4		9		3		7	
2	3		4		5		8	1
		5	1		7	6		
9	1		6		8		2	5
	2		3		6		9	
5			7		1			8

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 20

2 3 4 9

Medium = 14

3 4 7 9

Hard = 6

2 6 8 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

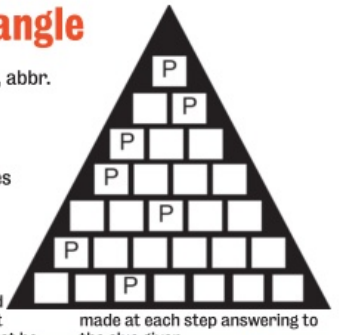
Differences: 1. Stripe is added to sleeve. 2. Steering wheel is not showing. 3. Side mirror is missing. 4. Pocket is moved. 5. Door handle is reversed. 6. Top of windshield is curved.

Riddler

A blanket that is made of skin Holds the ruddy darkness in. A shield that cannot stop a blade But against the sun a wall is made. A single pupil under its care Although no teacher is found there. What is it?

Alpha triangle

1 Parking sign
2 Internet protocol, abbr.
3 Deep hole
4 Ancient Briton
5 Subject
6 Kind of justice
7 Favouring relatives for jobs



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

JUMPIN' HORNED TOADS! HOW DID YOU BUILD A SET OF MUSCLES LIKE THAT?
MY SON HAS BEEN GOING TO A BODYBUILDING SCHOOL...
AND I DO ALL HIS HOMEWORK FOR HIM
8-7

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

DICK THE FLY:
I DON'T WANT MY PASSING TO BE A SOLEMN OCCASION
I WANT IT TO BE A JOYFUL ONE!
YOU GOT IT
DICK YAY
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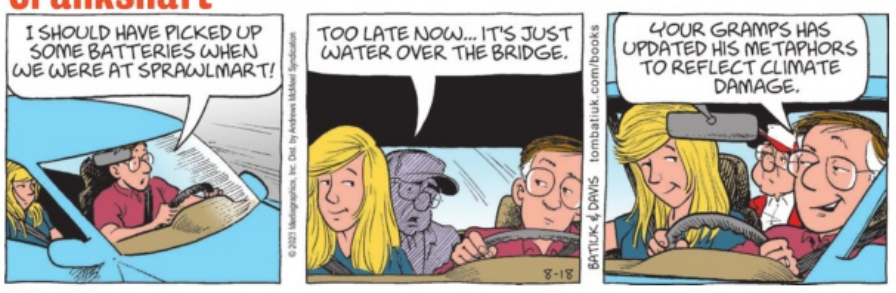
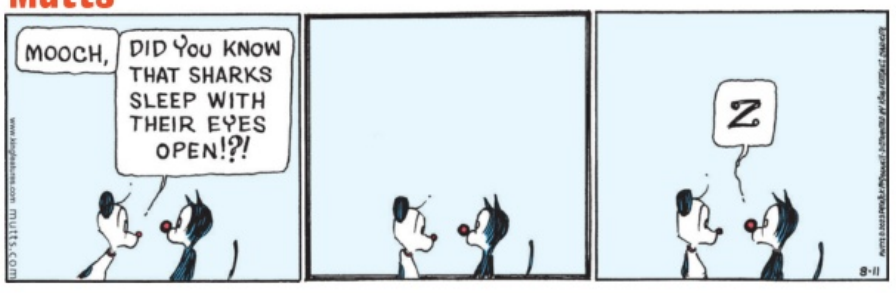
Hart of the city

YOU DON'T HAVE A DATE TO THE DANCE YET. WHY NOT GO WITH BRENT?
"WHY NOT?" HE'S A HUGE DWEEB! SEE FOR YOURSELF!
SKEUOMORPHISM IS WHEN ICONS REPRESENTED DIGITALLY RESEMBLE THEIR REAL-WORLD COUNTERPARTS.
I DIDN'T ASK.
I REST MY CASE.

Crankshaft


I SHOULD HAVE PICKED UP SOME BATTERIES WHEN WE WERE AT SPRAWLMART!
TOO LATE NOW... IT'S JUST WATER OVER THE BRIDGE.
YOUR GRAMPS HAS UPDATED HIS METAPHORS TO REFLECT CLIMATE DAMAGE.
8-8

Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you may feel dull. It is advised to keep your mind cool. It is the golden rule for you to think twice before any action. You may travel to recover your money; otherwise, you may lose it. You are also advised to avoid going on an adventure tour. Students are advised to go for in-depth study to achieve success.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you may feel good; domestic harmony may make you happy. You may meet an influential person to get some benefits on the work front. You are likely to perform well in your job, and you may expect some rewards in terms of promotions. Disputes over inherited property are likely to settle.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may be busy with kids; you may plan to invest in their future. You are likely to start innovating in partnership. You may get some investments in your business, which will increase it in the near future. You may also plan for higher studies to groom your career path.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may find yourself in a state of self-analysis, which will bring some confidence to you. Your focus on your goals is now clear; you may achieve your goal. Your creativity might improve, and you will take an interest in artefacts, movies, glamour, and real-life objects. At the end of the day, you may be satisfied with your life. Your opponents may be under control now.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may help needy people around you. It will increase your reputation among your surroundings. New ideas may come into your mind, and you are likely to help other people around you. You might implement the innovation into the work, which may increase your business. Lovebirds may plan an outing or an adventure tour.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may be busy with domestic issues. You may spend money on buying some artefacts or household stuff. You are advised to control spending on worthless stuff; otherwise, it may attract negative energy into the house. You are also advised to control your harsh language with the people around you.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, your spiritual power may make you happy. Your way of thinking may be positive. You are inclined towards spiritualism today. You may plan to visit a religious place. You may also take an interest in occult science. You are likely to observe flawlessness in your nature. It is advised to keep your views to yourself; try to discuss them with those who may understand your frequency.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may feel nervous, you may lack patience, and you may be attracted to the occult. It is advised to follow your intuition before going ahead. You may also gain in-depth knowledge on a subject, or you may have a good focus on your research.

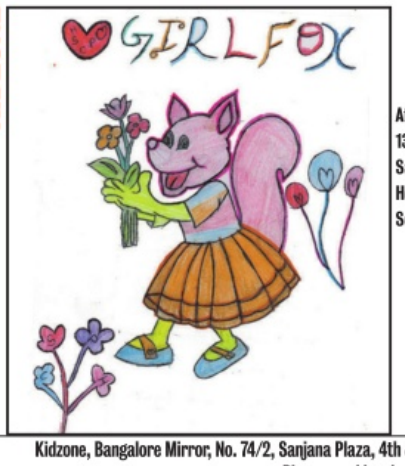
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, your moon is in a good position; you may expect some positive momentum in professional and domestic life. You are likely to expect gains in terms of your investments. You may get reciprocal help from your friends and relatives. Your hard work may pay off in terms of success.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may do better; your kid's health is better now. You can plan to make some investments for the kid's future. You are likely to be more loyal to your job. Job seekers may find a good job with the help of a reference. You may be able to find your hidden enemies, and with the help of blessings, you may counter them.

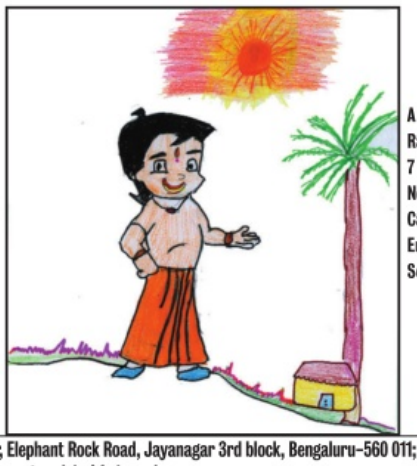
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, your mother's health may be good. You may enjoy work, and you may get rewards for it. Your social respect may be increased now. Overworking your mind may make you tired, and due to your workload, you may not be able to reach a family event.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may be satisfied with your work. You may plan for a short work-related trip. You may also visit a religious place to maintain your inner peace. Your gurus may show you the right path, which may give you clarity regarding your goals.

KIDZONE



Afreen Taj, 13 Years, Sacred Heart Hp School



A Harin Raam, 7 Years, New Cambridge English School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= 5² - (5)(6) - ¾ (-8)
= 25 - (5)(6) - ¾ (-8)
= 25 - 30 - ¾ (-8)
= -5 - (3)(-8)
= -5 - ¾ (-8)
= -5-(-24)
= 19

BULL'S EYE
fire, FISSURE, fuse, fuss, FUSSIER, rife, serf, surf

FAST FIVE

F	R	O	S	T
L	O	U	P	E
U	T	T	E	R
N	O	T	E	S
G	R	A	D	E

STRIKE OUT

I	N	L	A	I	D	E	D	A						
N	O	S	E	S	O	U	T	C	E	L	T			
C	O	N	S	C	I	E	N	T	I	O	U	S		
D	S				N	I	S				A			
E	E	O	B	O	C	A		E						
R	A	T	E	R	E	S	T	A	T	E	S			
R		U	D	H	E	S	T							
M	O	N	I	T	R		A							
E	T	C	E	T	E	R	A	E	T	R	E			
A	E	R	E	A	I	R	I							
D	U	N	E	E	J	E	C	T	I	N	G			
O	S	C	L	A	A	G	H							
W	H	E	T	I	N	A	N	D	O	U	T			

QUICK

C	I	W	S	D	O									
A	S	Y	T	D	G									
A	P	P	R	E	H	E	N	S	I	O	N	S		
P	E	S	E	V	U									
F	A	M	E	I	N	S	T	A	L	L	S			
I	H	D	N	R										
T	R	A	C	K	M	O	O	D	I	E	R			
A	C	A	D	E	M	Y	F	L	I	N	G			
R	E	P	U	L	S	E	D	P	A	R	T			
E	O	E	E	A										
D	S	N	I	S	A									
C	O	N	S	C	I	E	N	T	I	O	U	S		
L	E	O	P	A	R	D	S	M	I	L	I			

MENSA PUZZLE
MAGNETISM.

QUOTE UNCODE
Faith is about trusting God when you have unanswered questions.

RIDDLER
Eyelid

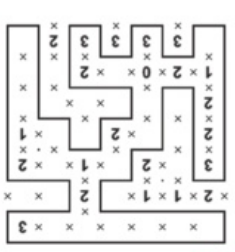
SUDOKU

5	9	3	7	1	2	4	6	8
6	7	1	2	8	9	3	5	4
8	2	4	3	5	6	1	9	7
9	1	7	6	3	8	4	2	5
4	8	5	1	2	7	6	3	9
2	3	6	4	9	5	7	8	1
1	4	8	9	6	3	5	7	2
3	5	2	8	7	4	9	1	6
7	6	9	5	1	2	8	4	3

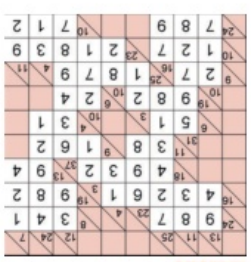
ALPHA TRIANGLE
p, lp, plr, plct, topic, poetic, Neptotic.

GO FIGURE
Easy
4 x 2 + 9 + 3 = 20
Medium
4 x 3 + 9 - 7 = 14
Hard
8 - 6 x 4 - 2 = 6

LOOP



KAKURO



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REKINDLED LOVE

Jennifer Lopez opens up about her deep connection with Ben Affleck

Jennifer Lopez has revealed that her actor husband, Ben Affleck, wants her to understand her worth and value. "I feel even more relaxed and comfortable, which makes me feel even more beautiful than I have ever felt with someone else," she told 'Vogue'.

The 'Marry Me' star said that she has come to a stage in life where she loves every part of herself "unapologetically", reports People magazine.

Lopez's happy comments about her beau come after the stylish pair attended their friend Pia Miller's birthday celebrations in Los Angeles late last month.

They arrived arm-in-arm and sported big grins at the party. As per 'People', the couple also enjoyed a night out together at a Los Angeles Club on October 17.

Lopez wore a white 70's teddy bear-style coat and wide-leg jeans, while Affleck was dressed in an all-black suit in the evening.

The stars also celebrated their first wedding anniversary back in August.

"One year ago today", JLo wrote as she shared photos from the pair's second wedding ceremony in Georgia on Instagram.

Their Georgia ceremony followed the pair officially tying the knot in Las Vegas in July 2022. "Dear Ben, Sitting here alone, Looking at my ring, Feeling overwhelmed," she added in her caption, quoting the lyrics of her song 'Dear Ben Part II' from her upcoming album 'This Is Me...Now'.

Lopez shares twins Emme Maribel and Maximilian "Max" David with her ex-husband Marc Anthony, while Affleck shares Violet, Seraphina and Samuel with his ex-wife Jennifer Garner.

The couple were previously engaged in 2002 but called off their planned ceremony the following year. They reconciled in 2021.

Lopez, who tied the knot with Affleck in 2022.

—IANS

Cheers for Tahira

Proud husband and actor Ayushmann Khurrana has shared his excitement about his wife Tahira Kashyap's directorial debut 'Sharmajee Ki Beti'.

Tahira Kashyap's directorial debut, 'Sharmajee ki Beti,' was unveiled at the Jio Mami Film Festival.

'Sharmajee ki Beti' is a heartwarming story that beautifully weaves together the complexities of family, identity, and relationships with women at the centre stage. The film received a standing ovation at the festival.

Speaking about the movie, Ayushmann said, "I have been a part of this journey from the beginning. I have read the script of the film and even watched the edits. I'm excited about this one; it is a cute gem of a film. I have seen her work really hard, and we are finally seeing it on the big screen, so we are very excited about it."

Talking about the film and her association with Applause Entertainment, Tahira Kashyap, said, "It's the first time I am going to see the film on the big screen. I always had this story in my mind, and my vision was always to have a comedy and quirky touch. It's a happy comedy film, and I hope people love it."

—ANI

Career highs

Mrunal Thakur has successfully created a niche in the film industry with her choices of projects and performances over the years.

The actress, who commands a huge fan following on social media, recently hit the headlines after reports of the actress tying the knot with a Telugu star started doing the rounds in the media.

This news gained significant attention when producer Allu Aravind discussed it during an award ceremony.

He was set to present the Best Female Actor award to Mrunal for her outstanding performance in the film "Sita Ramam." During the event, Aravind extended his blessings to Mrunal, wishing her a speedy marriage. He remarked, "I hope she finds a husband and settles down in Hyderabad."

In an earlier interview with India Today, Mrunal said that she believes in marriage because she has seen many successful marriages around herself. According to her, sometimes, we must realise that we must marry the person who is made for us. She also added that you may find this person when you are 18, 20, in your 30s, 40s, 50s, or 60s.

Mrunal emphasised that there is no specific age to discover the right life partner for marriage. In her view, if you do meet the right person, there's no need to delay - you should go ahead and tie the knot.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Mrunal was recently seen portraying the role of Adhira Arya in the second season of the web series 'Made in Heaven.' Her performance in the show, received widespread acclaim.

During an interview with ETimes, Mrunal spoke about her character and mentioned that she dedicated her role to all women worldwide who have endured abuse.

— ETimes

The big break

Actor Aditya Nanda, who recently debuted with 'Dono', is currently busy shooting for his next film 'Jigra' which also stars Bollywood star Alia Bhatt.

It's also revealed that Aditya was signed for 'Jigra' even before the release of his debut film 'Dono'. The film, which was announced in September this year, is being helmed by Vasan Bala, who is known for 'Monica, O My Darling'.

A source close: "Yes, Aditya was roped in for the film before the release of his debut film itself. It's his first-ever Dharma film. He is playing one of the pivotal roles, and currently, he is shooting for the film in full swing. 'Jigra' is already underway in full power, and the schedule is expected to last until February 2024."

The film is directed by Vasan Bala and will be released in cinemas on September 27, 2024. The film is produced by Karan Johar's Dharma Productions and Alia's production house, Eternal Sunshine. Alia announced 'Jigra' in September through her social media.

—IANS